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State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT
OF
EDUCATION**

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

Child Care and Development Fund State Plan

October 1, 2003 to September 30, 2005

ATTENTION: ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN CALIFORNIA'S CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Every two years, the federal government requires states, territories, and tribes that receive funds through the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) to prepare and submit a plan detailing how these funds will be allocated and expended. The California Department of Education (CDE) has been designated in State law to be the Lead Agency responsible for administering the CCDF in California and, therefore, is required to submit the CCDF State Plan.

Enclosed is a summary of California's proposed CCDF State Plan ("Plan"). The final Plan must be submitted to the federal government on July 1, 2003. This summary highlights the Plan's major provisions, activities, and services. This proposed Plan is in compliance with current State law and regulations. If and when new laws are enacted, the Plan will be amended accordingly.

A copy of the complete proposed CCDF State Plan will be available via the Internet beginning the week of April 14, 2003, at the following address:

http://www.cde.ca.gov/cyfsbranch/child_development/plan.htm

Individuals who do not have their own access to the Internet should be able to obtain access at most local public library branches throughout California.

This announcement includes the following:

- Description of the public hearing process;
- Guidelines for public testimony, whether verbal or written;
- Hearing and testimony time frames, and instructions for submitting written testimony; and
- Four-page summary of the Plan with a two-page listing of the Quality Improvement Plan budget.

PUBLIC HEARING PROCESS

Provision 7(h) of Item 6110-196-0001 of the 2002-2003 State Budget Act (Chapter 379, Statutes of 2002) states:

The State Department of Education shall establish expenditure priorities for the 2003-04 fiscal year that set forth the proposed state and local activities to improve child care, including the reasons therefor, to be undertaken in the 2003-04 fiscal year. This plan shall be submitted in a format developed in consultation with the Department of Finance and shall be submitted to the Department of Finance and to the fiscal committees of both houses at least 30 days prior to the commencement of public hearings on the proposed plan and no later than March 1, 2003.

Accordingly, the State Plan development process is as follows:

- The proposed State and local activities to improve child care (Section 5 of the Plan) were submitted to the Department of Finance as described above.
- The complete draft Plan, including the proposed State and local activities to improve child care, will be posted on the Internet the week of April 14, 2003.
- Formal public hearings will be conducted in May (see below), and written testimony will be accepted until May 21, 2003, as described in this announcement.

As part of the State Plan preparation process, federal law requires the Lead Agency to convene a public hearing to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the provision of child care services and quality improvement activities under the Plan before it is submitted to the federal government. In accordance with these requirements, four public hearings will take place from **2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** as follows:

Thursday, May 15, 2003: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue, **Alhambra**

Monday, May 19, 2003: CA Department of Education - Room 1101
1430 N Street, **Sacramento**

Tuesday, May 20, 2003: Fresno Unified School District - Room 116
Center for Professional Development
1833 E Street, **Fresno**

Wednesday, May 21, 2003: Alameda County Office of Education - Room 380
313 Winton Avenue, **Hayward**

If you need directions to a public hearing, please contact Cecelia Fisher-Dahms at (916) 322-4883.

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY WHETHER VERBAL OR WRITTEN

The focus of the public hearings is exclusively on the draft State Plan and testimony, whether verbal or written, must address its contents only. To assist in preparing testimony, the following guidance clarifies what is to be included.

The public hearing is:

- An opportunity for individuals and organizations to provide comments on specific items contained in the proposed Plan. Please reference the section number, heading, and page number in each comment.
- An opportunity to indicate support, opposition, suggested changes, additions, or deletions pertaining to specific items. Please offer constructive solutions in your statement.

The public hearing is not:

- A forum to recommend law or regulation changes. These comments should be addressed through the legislative process.
- A forum to discuss any of the proposals currently under discussion in the legislative process or to advocate for any specific proposed legislative bills. These comments should be saved for legislative hearings.
- A forum to discuss how funds are allocated by the State Legislature for child care and development programs. Those concerns should be addressed in legislative budget hearings.
- A forum to describe general problems or concerns about California's child care and development services delivery system. Those concerns should be addressed to the Child Development Division.

All comments or testimony, whether in writing or presented orally at one of the public hearings, must be related to specific items in the proposed Plan. Commenters and testifiers must identify the section number, heading, and page number of the Plan upon which they are commenting. Comments or testimony that do not reference specific sections in the Plan may not be considered or reviewed.

HEARING AND TESTIMONY TIMEFRAMES

The public hearings will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. Those persons wishing to testify will be asked to sign in upon arrival and will be called forward to testify in the order of sign-in. Each testifier will have four minutes and thirty seconds to present. Each public hearing will continue until 6:00 p.m. unless all persons wishing to testify have had an opportunity to do so, in which case, the hearing may be closed before 6:00 p.m. Please bring **five** written copies of your testimony with you to the hearing.

HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY

In addition to testimony at the public hearings, written testimony will be accepted, and may be submitted by mail, fax, or e-mail. All written comments **must be received by May 21, 2003**.

By Mail: Written comments on the proposed State Plan should be addressed to:

State Plan Public Hearing Coordinator
California Department of Education
Child Development Division
1430 N Street, Suite 6308
Sacramento, CA 95814

By Fax: Please use the following fax number for written comments:

(916) 323-6853

By E-Mail: Please use the following address:

statepln@cde.ca.gov

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The purpose of the federal Child Care and Development Fund is to increase the availability, affordability, and quality of early care and education services. Your comments and suggestions will help ensure that the CCDF State Plan being proposed will fulfill this purpose.

If you have any questions about the CCDF public hearings, please contact Cecelia Fisher-Dahms, Child Development Consultant, in the CDE's Child Development Division, at:

- (916) 322-4883; or
- By fax at (916) 323-6853; or
- By e-mail at cfisherd@cde.ca.gov.